

Message Text

PAGE 01 LOUREN 00196 271228 Z

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ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 AF-05 EUR-06 ADP-00 /016 W
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R 271144 Z MAR 73

FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1854

INFO USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL LUANDA

UNCLAS LOURENCO MARQUES 0196

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: SCUL MZ US

SUBJ: PROPOSED BASKETBALL TEAM EXCHANGE

1. OVER PAST FEW MONTHS LOURENCO MARQUES SPORTING CLUB, ONE OF LEADING MOZAMBIQUE SPORTS ORGANIZATIONS, HAS BEEN NEGOTIATING WITH AMERICAN BASKETBALL ENTREPRENEUR FRANK A. WALSH OF SAN FRANCISCO (PROJECTS SPORTS WEST), FOR AN EXCHANGE VISIT BETWEEN " JUNIOR" BASKETBALL TEAMS, IN WHICH AN AMERICAN COLLEGE FRESHMAN TEAM WOULD VISIT AND PLAY EXHIBITION GAMES IN PORTUGAL, ANGOLA, AND MOZAMBIQUE IN DECEMBER- JANUARY 1973/74, AND THE SPORTING CLUB " JUNIORS" TEAM WOULD MAKE A RETURN VISIT TO U. S. IN JANUARY- FEBRUARY 1974. EACH SIDE WOULD PAY OWN INTERNATIONAL AIRFARE, WITH HOSTS PROVIDING LIVING EXPENSES, ENTERTAINMENT, AND POCKET-MONEY AFTER ARRIVAL.
 2. FRANK WALSH DIED UNEXPECTEDLY IN FEBRUARY, AND WIDOW HAS RECOMMENDED THAT SPORTING CLUB CONTACT SAM KETCHMAN OF ATHLETIC ENTERPRISES, 6941 ANTIGUA PLACE, SARASOTA, FLORIDA AS SOMEONE WHO MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN CONTINUING PROJECT. SPORTING CLUB " JUNIORS" COACH HAS APPROACHED US TO ASK THAT WE WRITE MR. KETCHMAN AND INTRODUCE SPORTING CLUB AS RESPONSIBLE ORGANIZATION CAPABLE OF ORGANIZING ITS SIDE OF EXCHANGE.
 3. I BELIEVE THAT SUCH AN EXCHANGE, BETWEEN MULTI- RACIAL JUNIOR TEAMS WOULD BE APPROPRIATE WAY OF PROMOTING UNDERSTANDING AND GOODWILL BETWEEN MOZAMBIQUE AND AMERICAN PEOPLES.
- UNCLASSIFIED

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BASKETBALL IS MAJOR SPORT HERE, A NUMBER OF ADULT TEAMS HAVE HIRED ONE OR MORE AMERSO HEAD OF ICFTU-

AFFILIATED UNITED UNIONS (AS WELL AS PRINCIPAL SACRE OPPONENT),
TOLD LABATT IT IMPOSSIBLE TO HAVE MULTIPLE LEBANESE AFFILIATIONS
TO ICFTU AND THAT KIRSTEN AGREED WITH THAT. HOWEVER, KHOURY
DID SAY DISPUTE " WOULD BE WORKED OUT", WITHOUT SPECIFYING
JUST HOW THIS WOULD HAPPEN.

3. COMMENT: SITUATION AS ILLUSTRATED ABOVE INDICATIVE OF
CURRENT DIVISIVNESS OF LEBANESE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT WITHIN
" UMBRELLA" CONFEDERATION. KIRSTEN APPEARS TO HAVE AT LEAST
SUCCEEDED IN VISITING LEBANON WITHOUT HAVING DROWNED UNDER
LEAKS IN UMBRELLA, BUT ALSO WITHOUT HAVING APPLIED MANY PATCHES
TO IT. IN OPINION OF LABATT, DISPUTE LIKELY TO CONTINUE FOR LONG
TIME TO COME, BUT WITH ULTIMATE ADVANTAGE GOING TO SACRE AS
REPRESENTATIVE OF MORE DYNAMIC FORCES IN LEBANESE TRADE
UNION MOVEMENT. KIRSTEN CLEARLY SEES ADVANTAGE ACCRUING
TO SACRE AS HE TOLD LABATT " ICFTU NEEDS PEOPLE (SACRE)
LIKE THAT." THUS WHILE KIRSTEN MAY NOT HAVE REALLY SETTLED
ANYTHING SPECIFIC AS A RESULT OF HIS FOUR DAY VISIT HERE, HE
APPEARS PERSONALLY TO HAVE GAINED GOOD INSIGHT INTO ACTUAL
STATE OF PLAY WITHIN LEBANESE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT.

4. SEVERAL INTERESTING SIDELIGHTS WERE ALSO WORTHY OF NOTE.
IN FIRST PLACE, RECEPTION GIVEN EVENING OF MAR 26
FOR LEBANESE TRADE UNIONISTS WAS GIVEN BY KIRSTEN HIMSELF
RATHER THAN BY EITHER OF TWO CURRENT LEBANESE ICFTU
AFFILIATES. SECONDLY, RECEPTION WAS ATTENDED BY LOCAL
REPRESENTATIVE OF INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF ARAB TRADE
UNIONS (ICATU) AND BY SECRETARY GENERAL OF COMMUNIST-
DOMINATED NATIONAL FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS (BUT NOT BY
PRESIDENT OF THAT ORGANIZATION, ELIAS HABRE), PROVING, IF
NOTHING ELSE, THAT WHILE LOCAL TRADE UNION WATERS MAY BE
MURKY, THEY DO RUN DEEP. EVERYONE WANTS TO KEEP HIS
HAND IN GAME, AT LEAST SO LONG AS ULTIMATE VICTORY UNCERTAIN.

5. FINALLY, IT ALSO SEEMS LIKELY, ACCORDING TO ENZO FRIZO,
WHO ACCOMPANIED KIRSTEN, THAT FEDERATION OF SEA TRANSPORT
WORKERS, WHO HAD ALLOWED ICFTU AFFILIATION TO LAPSE
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FOLLOWING 1967 ARAB- ISRAELI WAR, WILL RE- AFFILIATE WITH ICFTU
SHORTLY. THUS MOVE, IF IT OCCURS (AND LABATT AGREES IT
LIKELY) IS MORE A REFLECTION OF CHANGED LEADERSHIP IN
FEDERATION THAN ANY INDICATION OF CHANGES IN WORKER ATTITUDES
TOWARD ISRAEL GENERALLY.
BUFFUM

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 02 APR 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 MAR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973LOUREN00196
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: LOURENCO MARQUES
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730346/abqcdxch.tel
Line Count: 106
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: n/a
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kellerpr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 25 OCT 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25-Oct-2001 by hagers>; APPROVED <28-Jan-2002 by kellerpr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PROPOSED BASKETBALL TEAM EXCHANGE
TAGS: SCUL MZ US
To: STATE INFO USIA
LISBON
LUANDA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005